



12th Annual Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival & Lecture Series 2009

Organized by African Voices Magazine and Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
September 26-27, 2009 - Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2009

Using Films in the Classroom – 1 pm-2:30 pm,

Location: H201

Presenter: Sharon Parker

A hands-on workshop will offer insight on using films as powerful and inspiring teaching tools.

TEEN SECTION: Discovering Ourselves

3:30 pm-7:30 pm, Location: H201

Mother - 4 min., 45 sec., Doc.

Director: Kimberly Scott

A touch short documentary to a very special mother who overcame challenges to inspire her daughter.

Missing Without You - 11 min., 43 sec., Doc.

Director: Rashawna Paul

A family tries to cope when a son is imprisoned and missing from their lives.

Mile In My Shoes - 116 min., Narrative

Director: Karla Ward

Tameryn and Moses learned to survive South African ghettos; will they survive another?

Additional films to be announced.

SECTION I: Universal Consciousness,

2 pm-3:45 pm

Black To Our Roots - 48 min., 47 sec., Doc.

Producers: Tresubia Whitlow, Jacqueline Olive
Living in a housing project in Atlanta, Georgia, 17-year-old Sylvia Dorsey is frustrated by the violence and drug abuse that surrounds her. Sylvia embarks upon a soul-searching mission to find her path to a better life that leads her to Africa.

Hurricane Season: Hidden Messages In The

Water – 40 min., Experimental

Directors: Alixa and Naima

Climbing Poetree presents a multi media two-woman show about cultural disasters and a great shift in Universal Consciousness. The film interweaves spoken word poetry, sound collage, shadow art, dance, film and animation to explore critical issues facing humanity. (Only the film aspect of this wonderful multi-media presentation will be shown at the festival).



SECTION II: Lighten Up,

3:55 pm-4:55 pm

Release – 5 min., Narrative

Director/Writer: C. Josephine Hagerty

When a man reaches his breaking point and heads out to kill, it takes the playful innocence of a baby in a cramped elevator and some flying goldfish to make him reconsider. What does it take to tear down the walls that keep us separated?

Missing – 7 min., 40 sec., Narrative

Director/Producer: Sabrina Moella

A short silent film about a young Black couple who question the strength of their relationship. Her life takes a turning point when she realizes that her boyfriend has disappeared.

In Search of Consonance – 30 min. (Director's Cut), Narrative

Director/Producer: Stacey Larkins

A short-tempered woman seeking emotional stability writes a crass, but successful, family bashing book that she attempts to hide from her family.



SECTION III: Get Your Dollar Bill Y'all, 5 pm-7 pm

My Change Adds Up – 1 min., 28 sec., Experimental

Director: Katrina Strickland

My Change Adds Up dictates the daily changes that have occurred since the recession.

A Comforting Thought – 3 min., 50 sec., Animation, Experimental

Director/Producer: Donna Golden

A short animated film satirizing overt and subtle justification for capitalism and present day economic relationships. Using a combination of cutouts and photo collage, the film — subtitled notes on the habits of highly successful societies — explores the ideologies and attitudes that sustain extreme inequalities of wealth and power.

Jamaica For Sale – 92 min., Doc.

Director/Producer: Esther Figueroa

The Caribbean is the region most economically dependent on tourism and Jamaica is the fourth most indebted country in the world. *Jamaica For Sale* counters the dominant view that tourism is the savior of the Jamaican people.

SECTION IV: Family Roots, Sacrifice, Courage And Accountability, 7 pm-9:45 pm

Lecture Series Discussion, Kumble Theater, 7 pm-7:45 pm

Honoring Our Roots & Family Ties

Reel Sisters 2009 will present "Honoring Our Roots & Family Ties." Filmmakers and community leaders will address the important role films have played in reflecting the lives and heritages of people of African descent.

Lillie and Leander: A Legacy of Violence

84 min., Doc.

Producer: Alice Hurwitz

Director: Jeffrey Morgan

A Legacy of Violence examines the case of a black man suspected of raping and murdering a white woman at the turn of the 20-century in Pensacola, Florida. In investigating the rape and murder of her great-great aunt Lillie Davis, Alice Brewton Hurwitz stumbles upon an explosive family secret.

SECTION V: Love In An Abstract Way,

10 pm-11:15 pm

Mitsein, 60 min., Narrative

Director/Produce: Aparna Malladi

A young woman sees her image in a painting at a gallery goes on an existential journey looking for the artist who created her without her permission.

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SECTION VI: Unnecessary Violence,

2 pm-3:40 pm

I Am Sean Bell: Black Boys Speak - 10 min., 36 sec., Doc.

Director: Stacey Muhammad

Young African-American men challenge a system that makes them all targets such as the tragic case of Sean Bell, who was brutally shot down by cops on his wedding day.

The Birthday Party - 7min., Narrative

Director: Veronique N. Doumbé

A father on his second tour in Iraq, a mother trying to keep her children safe, a son on the brink of manhood, a daughter anticipating her tenth birthday and a party that will change their lives forever.

Never Again – 15 min., 10 sec., Doc.

Director/Producer: Melitta Tchaicovsky

Never Again addresses issues that are at the core of the ethnic cleansing taking place in Darfur, Sudan for more than six years.

Africa Rising: The Grassroots Movement to End Female Genital Mutilation - 62 min., Doc.

Director: Paula Heredia

Producers: Taina Bien-Aime, Faiza Jama Mohamed, and Jessica Neuwirth

From the Horn of Africa to the Western Shores of the sub-Saharan nations, everyday 6,000 girls are subjected to a practice called female genital mutilation or FGM. With little more than fierce determination and deep love for their communities, brave activists are leading the path against all odds to break the silence about this centuries-old tradition.

Section VII: Work In Progress

3:45 pm-4:05 pm

Let The Eagle Scream: Evolution of Lynching In America- 10 min., Doc.

Directors: Rhonda L. Haynes and Nia Love

Let the Eagle Scream is a documentary-based film that examines the evolution of lynching in America and the direct development of anti-lynching resistance movements generated throughout the United States. The film will focus on the work of Ida B. Wells, the NAACP, and the A Million Women United to Stop Lynching campaign, which creates advocacy for the 1922 Dyer Anti-Lynching bill to become federal legislation.

Section VIII: Family Ties,

4:15 pm-5:45 pm

The Hands – 10 min., 23 sec., Narrative

Director: Charise Studesville

A daughter explores her relationship with her dying father and becomes fixated on his hands as a representation of who he was as a man.

Open Secrets – 7 min., 21 sec., Narrative

Director: Faith Kakula, Producer: Jacob Motz

Disturbing childhood dreams lead a wiry teen to the open secrets in his family.

Faithfully Divided – 65 min., Doc.

Director: Shandra McDonald Bradford

Producer: Paula Whatley Matabane

A 140-year-old graveyard promise exposing racial fault lines in the legacy of an American Family and three Southern Churches — one white, two black with intertwining histories from slavery — looms large over one woman's search to reclaim her family's heritage and understand why Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour in the 21st century.

In Our Heads about Our Hair

5:50 pm – 6:30 pm

A debut film from the Heads Up/HAIRitage producers.

Awards Ceremony & Reception:

6:35 pm - 7:30pm